

Schizophrenia is a complex mental disorder. There is no set definition for this illness because the severity and symptoms all depend on the case.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001925/>

Schizophrenics are unable to distinguish the difference between reality and what occurs in their head, to think clearly and logically, to have “normal” emotional behaviors, to function “normally” in society, and to relate to others.
<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmedhealth/PMH0001925/>

This is a difficult illness to comprehend considering every case of schizophrenia may be different.

About 1% of the U.S. population, which is about 3,100,000 out of 314,000,000 Americans, have been diagnosed with schizophrenia, 10% of schizophrenics have a first-degree relative (parents or siblings) who possess the illness, there is a 40%-65% for one identical twin to develop schizophrenia if the other has been diagnosed with it, and anyone with second-degree relatives (aunts, uncles, grandparents, cousins) that have schizophrenia have a higher risk of developing the illness than the general population. Although it may seem that family members with the illness play a large role in developing schizophrenia, about 60% of schizophrenics don't have any family members with the illness.

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/schizophrenia/what-causes-schizophrenia.shtml>

All races and both genders are equally at risk for developing schizophrenia. It is rare for a child and anyone after age 45 to become schizophrenic, but the risk still exists. Symptoms are usually seen around age 16-30, and men tend to experience symptoms before women. Here is a documentary on two little girls with Schizophrenia.

<http://bridgingzgap.wordpress.com/category/diversity/>

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/schizophrenia/when-does-schizophrenia-start-and-who-gets-it.shtml>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B9v4FsKXmj8>

Scientists have yet to discover the causes for schizophrenia, but there are many theories of genetic and environmental causes, along with an abnormal brain structure. There are beliefs that when hundreds of different genes are combined, then the brain will develop unusually. This is believed because scientists have found that the human brain does not contain one gene to cause schizophrenia.

<http://lolhem.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/schizophrenia/what-causes-schizophrenia.shtml>

Scientists also believe that people with this illness have higher rates of rare genetic mutations which may cause certain genes important to creating brain chemicals malfunction. There are also beliefs about the imbalance of neurotransmitters in the brain. Neurotransmitters are substances that allow brain cells to communicate with each other. If there are not enough neurotransmitters in the brain, then there will not be enough chemical reactions which may cause the brain to malfunction.

<http://clouded-and-shadowed.deviantart.com/art/Schizophrenia-93241903>

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/schizophrenia/what-causes-schizophrenia.shtml>

It is also believed that stressful experiences may relate to schizophrenia. Some of these factors may be: exposures to viruses or malnutrition before birth, problems during birth, for example, low oxygen levels, exposure to a virus during infancy, early parental loss or separation, and physical or sexual abuse in childhood.

<http://www.topnews.in/health/women-more-competitive-men-211030>

http://www.helpguide.org/mental/schizophrenia_symptom.htm#early

There are also beliefs that abnormalities in the brain structure relate to schizophrenia. The brain contains fluid-filled cavities at the center which are called ventricles; schizophrenics have larger ventricles than a "normal" brain. Low brain activity in some areas, especially the frontal lobe, may cause schizophrenia. But problems in the brain development may occur before birth and these problems may not be seen until puberty, when the brain begins to change. Although scientists have many theories as to why schizophrenia develops, they continue to research so they can discover the causes and better help victims.

<http://irrational-minds.blogspot.com/2011/12/how.html>

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/schizophrenia/what-causes-schizophrenia.shtml>

There are three different types of symptoms: Positive symptoms, Negative symptoms, and Cognitive symptoms. Positive symptoms are the "psychotic behaviors" schizophrenics have; depending if treatment is given or not, these symptoms may be severe or hardly noticeable. These symptoms will come and go, but the sad truth about these symptoms is that they force victims to lose their touch with reality. The four parts of Positive symptoms are: hallucinations, delusions, thought disorders, and movement disorders.

<http://zazenlife.com/tag/schizophrenia/>

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/publications/schizophrenia/what-are-the-symptoms-of-schizophrenia.shtml>